

In the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 3 line 21 with the following amended paragraph:

In recent years, USB disks have come into use as mass storage devices. A USB disk is a mass storage device that interfaces to a host device using the USB standard protocol. One major advantage of such a device is that it can be disconnected from the host and reconnected to the host even while the host is operating. So, for example, there is no need to power down PC 10 to attach a USB disk to PC 10 at USB connector 28 or to detach a USB disk from USB connector 28. Some USB disks, such as the flash-based DiskOnKey™ available from M-Systems Flash Disk Pioneers, Ltd. of Kfar Saba, Israel, are small and pocketable, and so are very convenient to use as removable and portable mass storage media. Because the USB protocol is a serial protocol that is not compatible with direct execution, USB disks are not directly executable by CPU 12. USB disks require a driver for accessing their contents. Such a driver typically is part of the OS. For example, all Microsoft Windows™ operating systems, from Windows 98™ 98™ onwards, include a USB driver.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 11 line 1 with the following amended paragraph:

Referring again to the drawings, Figure 2 is a schematic block diagram of a basic USB disk 32 of the present invention, operationally connected to a PC 11. PC 11 is a modified version of PC 10. Specifically, PC 11 lacks both a BIOS and a hard disk. Instead, USB disk 32 includes a directly executable non-volatile memory 34 that substitutes for BIOS 14 and a mass storage device 36 that substitutes for hard

disk 18. Specifically, boot code for PC 11 is stored in directly executable memory 34, and OS code for PC 11 is stored in mass storage device 36. USB disk 32 is operationally connected to PC 11 via connectors 40 and 42: connector 40 is a female connector that is part of PC 11, and connector 42 is a matching male connector that is part of USB disk 32. Directly executable memory 34 communicates with bus 30 using signals 46 of an appropriate direct execution protocol. Communication of mass storage device 36 with bus 30 is via signals 44 of a USB standard protocol, as facilitated by a USB controller 38 in USB disk 32 and by USB hub 26 in PC 11.